



# Information Pack

for press and other stakeholders

## Your role in protecting the public

You can help to protect the public by using the protected title 'architect' accurately and correctly describing how architects are regulated in the UK.

By doing so you will help the public make informed choices about their architectural project.

## Key messages

- The title architect is protected by law in the UK. It is illegal for someone to use the title in business or practice if they're not on our Register. We can and do prosecute those who misuse the title.
- Anyone can search the Architects Register online for free to quickly and easily check someone is a genuine UK architect.
- Only 'architect' is protected. Terms like 'architectural designer' and 'architectural consultant' are not covered by our regulatory activities.
- Anyone can provide architectural services in the UK, but they can only do so as an architect if they are registered with us. UK architects have met our educational standards, adhere to our professional standards and hold appropriate insurance.
- Anyone can raise a concern with us if they think someone may be misusing the title, and we will investigate and take appropriate action.
- Anyone can raise a concern with us about the conduct or competence of a UK architect - serious concern about architects are rare.

It is not an offence for a third party to refer to someone inaccurately as an architect - however we recommend you consult the Architects Register and avoid using architect as part of a description for anyone not on the Register.

**[architects-register.org.uk](https://architects-register.org.uk)**

## Who we are

The Architects Registration Board (ARB) is the independent statutory regulator of the UK's 40k+ architects. We were established by Parliament to deliver the Architects Act 1997. Our overarching role is to protect the public and maintain trust in UK architects. A registration fee paid by architects is the main source of funding for our regulatory activities.

[arb.org.uk/about-arb](http://arb.org.uk/about-arb)   [arb.org.uk/news-releases](http://arb.org.uk/news-releases)   [architects-register.org.uk](http://architects-register.org.uk)

## What we do

- We maintain the Architects Register, the definitive record of all UK architects (available online).
- We set the UK educational standards for architects by prescribing the UK qualifications required to enter the Register, and we ensure only appropriate applicants from overseas join.
- We set the professional standards expected of architects and enforce them through the Architects Code.
- We take action against those who call themselves an architect illegally and work to prevent title misuse occurring.

## Notes for writers/editors

- We are happy to provide suggested terminology to aid your descriptions, examples below:

### *Recommended phrasing*

Recognised as an architect in the US  
[NAME], who holds a Part 2 qualification  
Architecture student

### *Not recommended*

US architect  
Part 2 architect  
Student Architect

- We prefer 'The Architects Registration Board' or 'ARB', not 'the ARB'.
- Registration is mandatory for practising architects. Membership of a professional body is optional. Architects are therefore not members of ARB, but registrants.
- We prescribe the UK qualifications required to join the Architects Register and become a UK architect. RIBA validates courses for the purposes of membership to their organisation.

## Further support

Kate Howlett (ARB Communications Manager): [media@arb.org.uk](mailto:media@arb.org.uk) / 020 7580 5861